

## Inside

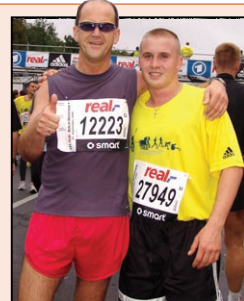
**Welcome Home Celebration**  
Soldiers, VIPs and families converge on Wiesbaden for Welcome Home Celebration. See pages 14-15.



**Adding realism to convoy training**  
Hanau Soldiers serve as guerilla forces in to help engineers prepare for duty in Iraq. See page 23.



**Marathon men**  
Soldiers from Baumholder and Giessen Friedberg prove they've got the right stuff during endurance race in Berlin. See page 27.



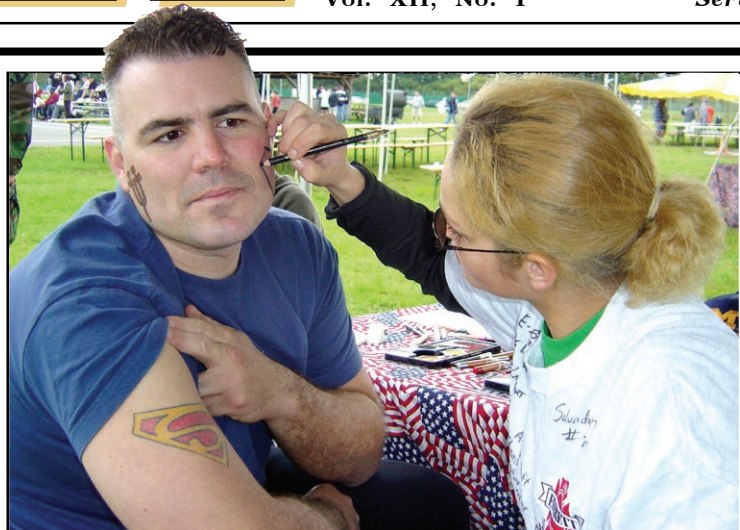
# Herald Union



Vol. XII, No. 1

Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group

Oct. 12, 2004



Sp. Amanda Irwin of HHC, 1-501st Aviation, paints a Superman logo on the face of Sp. David Lolley, Company D, 1-501st Aviation, during the unit's Organization Day at Fliegerhorst Kaserne Oct. 1.

## Hello and goodbye

### Organization Day bittersweet for 1-501st Aviation Soldiers, families

**Story and photos by**  
**Karl Weisel**  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Organization Days are not unusual among military units, but for members of the 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, this year's event was unique for several reasons.

Having recently celebrated their return from 15 months in Iraq, the Fliegerhorst-based battalion will soon break apart as some members leave Hanau to spend a year in Fort Hood, Texas, while their UH-64 Apache helicopters are upgraded to the new Longbow standard and other Soldiers depart to join other units.

The Organization Day was also special because it was a chance for members of the unit to pick up T-shirts donated by Washington firefighters in support of their efforts in the Global War On Terrorism.

"This is really our only opportunity to do it (Organization Day)," said Lt. Col. Robert Doerer, 1-501st Aviation commander, explaining that between the block leaves, Welcome Home Ceremonies and eventual casing of the colors, members of the unit have been strapped for time. "We're trying to capitalize on having as many people together at one time before

**See Hello, goodbye on page 4**



Soldiers pick up T-shirts donated by Washington firefighters, as part of their "Heroes to Heroes" project, during Organization Day.

## Lessons learned in Iraq

### Leaders share insights during Land Combat Expo 2004

**By Karl Weisel**  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Transformation of the Army and lessons still being learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom dominated this year's Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg Sept. 28-30.

Featured speakers ranging from 1st Armored Division commander Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, V Corps commanders past and present Lt. Gens. William S. Wallace and Ricardo Sanchez described the challenges of operations in Iraq, the transitioning nature of the military and the effects of both on Soldiers and their families. Visitors to the three-day exposition had a chance to talk to the subject matter experts; examine state-of-the-art military tools, equipment and uniforms; and learn about the diverse Soldier and family support programs available to members of the Army family in Europe.

"It's been a year of challenge, change, courage and commitment to the world, our great nation and to all of us in the United States Army Europe," said Gen. B.B. Bell, USAREUR commander, in his intro to the Land Combat Expo 2004 welcome brochure. "Our wonderful

Soldiers, civilians and family members serving in and supporting OIF and OEF [Operation Enduring Freedom] have raised the bar for the world."

During sessions by Army leaders, attendees had a chance to ask Preston questions about their chances for advancement, the length of future deployments and standards issues. Besides addressing transformation and Soldier issues during the Expo, the Army's senior noncommissioned officer also visited Hanau's

Pioneer Kaserne theater Sept. 30 to talk to Soldiers from around the 104th Area Support Group about the rapidly evolving force and how the move to a more deployable Army will affect them.

"What have we learned and what will we apply to our next mission?" asked the 1st Armored Division commander rhetorically during his session in Heidelberg Sept. 27, describing how his Soldiers moved from being pervasively present

**See Lessons on page 3**



Photo by Karl Weisel

Visitors talk to Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans from Friedberg's 1-37th Armor by their M1A1 Abrams tank, nicknamed "Adan's Revenge," during the Land Combat Expo 2004 in Heidelberg.

## SOFA stamp: Don't forget, new certificate will be required by German officials as of Jan. 15, 2005

Civilian members of Germany-based U.S. forces are reminded they are required to have the new, separate Status Of Forces Agreement certificate in place of SOFA stamps in tourist passports.

The laminated document is meant to be carried along with the passport when traveling. It features a hologram, special paper and other security features, according to an Installation Management Agency-Europe release from earlier this year. It also features an expiration date.

The deadline to acquire the new certificate is Jan. 15, 2005. After that German officials will no

longer recognize the SOFA stamp in U.S. tourist passports for entry into Germany.

Uniformed members of the U.S. forces in Germany do not need the certificates, nor do civilians who possess an official passport containing a SOFA stamp issued by the State Department. The official passport, also known as a "no-fee passport" because it was issued by the State Department at no cost to the individual, may be red or blue and is marked "official."

Civilians associated with the U.S. forces, employees and family members who possess only a tourist passport must have their exist-

ing SOFA certificate replaced with the new one if they will still be in Germany after Jan. 15, 2005. They should contact their local passport processing office to obtain the new SOFA certificate.

The importance of obtaining the new certificate should not be underestimated, officials said. In addition to serving as an entry permit, the certificate is tangible proof that authorized U.S. personnel are eligible for tax- and duty-free shopping at the exchange and commissaries, for gas coupons and other benefits U.S. forces enjoy under the SOFA. (IMA-E Public Affairs)



# Commentary

## Second thoughts

### High school reunion

Commentary by Karl Weisel  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

One of the facts of life about growing up as a military brat is that one's friends change every couple of years — either they or you move on to new horizons. While some people keep in touch, you quickly get used to saying goodbye and constantly striking up new friendships.

High school is the same way. Unlike in the movies where high school is portrayed as that once in a lifetime experience shared by friends made for life, high school for military brats is just another stepping stone on the road to adulthood — teachers and fellow students come and go and schools sometimes even cease to exist as military communities drawdown.

About 25 Frankfurt American High School alumni gathered in front of their former Department of Defense Dependents School Sept. 26 after Dennis Berwyn of the class of '78 organized a get-together for alumni from any year through the [www.fahs.org](http://www.fahs.org) website. It was the first all-classes reunion at the facility since 1995 when the school welcomed several hundred former students back to witness the school's closing. Several people traveled from the United States to meet in Frankfurt and then to enjoy a vacation including stops in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and at the Munich Oktoberfest. They were joined by former FAHSers who live in Germany.

Geral Martin, a retired FAHS teacher who now works with the USO in Wiesbaden, was on hand to serve as a tour guide through the school which has since been converted to a German construction trade school. As Martin and the school's director met outside the main entrance of the Philipp Holzmann Schule which still bears the FAHS eagle logo, they commiserated that the facility will soon be torn down to make way for Frankfurt's ever-expanding university (parts of the university were relocated to the former Abrams Building and V Corps Headquarters after the drawdown of U.S. forces from the city in the mid-'90s).

Many of us were surprised how many former students and teachers were still in the area — serving as a military dentist at the Hanau Dental Clinic, as teachers at Wiesbaden's Gen. H.H. Arnold High School and Darmstadt Middle School, shooting photos for *The Stars and Stripes* in Darmstadt, running a hotel in Frankfurt, raising military families in Würzburg or any number of other worthwhile endeavors. While it wasn't the reunion to end all reunions like in the movies, it was great to swap stories, to share memories and to meet people from all over the world who had carried the essence of the Frankfurt American High School experience into their present lives. It was a reminder that the DoDDS experience, in this case a school that graduated its first students in June of 1946 and its last in 1995, is less a place and more a state of mind. (Editor's note: *DoDDS-Europe hosts links to alumni organizations at [www.eu.odododea.edu](http://www.eu.odododea.edu). Click on "Alumni" under "Partnerships" on the left side of the page.*)

## Exercising seasonal safety

By Gen. B.B. Bell  
U.S. Army Europe commander

Here in Europe summer is over, winter will be here before we know it and our Winter Safety Campaign is now under way. As part of this campaign, I direct your attention to local traffic hazards and seasonal risks. Below are some hazards unique to the month of October.

The fall harvest season is here and drivers can expect to encounter a lot of farm equipment on the road. When driving in areas where farming is common, keep the following in mind:

☆ Harvest vehicles are large and slow, and the temptation to pass them under less than ideal conditions is great. Following these vehicles too closely can limit your field of vision. When attempting to pass a large harvest vehicle, keep your distance so that you can see oncoming traffic, and be patient. Pass only when you have a clear view and enough time to do so safely.

☆ Harvest time means that we can



and headlights.

☆ To help avoid accidents when driving under these conditions, slow down and increase your following distance. Be especially careful on curves and at intersections. Ensure your car has enough windshield-washer fluid, and periodically clean your headlights to remove dirt and grime.

The harvest season is also a time for festivals. If you plan to participate in local fests, enjoy yourself, but be careful. Remember that alcohol impairs your judgment, coordination and ability to

expect more dirt on the road than usual. Dirt and mud make roads slippery and can cover windshield

react quickly. Never get behind the wheel after drinking alcohol. Use public transportation or arrange for a designated driver to get you home safely.

As winter approaches the days get shorter, and soon we will be commuting in the dark. Now is the time to have vehicle lights checked. Free Vehicle Lighting Campaign inspections may be available at AAFES garages or host nation garages in the community. Take advantage of this opportunity now to prepare for those dark mornings and evenings.

For those not deployed, enjoy the great fall weather and be sure to take advantage of the many opportunities our beautiful host nations have to offer. Get out and mingle with some of the most delightful people in the world. As you recharge yourself and prepare for winter, keep up the good work in preventing injuries and fatalities. I am extremely proud of you and I want you to take care of yourselves. Continue to be safe as we execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere!

## Take time to get away from it all

Commentary by David Ruderman  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

It wasn't until my wife and I and our daughter took off last month for a couple of weeks in the amazingly beautiful Canary Islands that I remembered just how important it is to periodically get away from it all.

*"The World is too much with us; late and soon, Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers: Little we see in Nature that is ours,"* wrote William Wordsworth, the great English Romantic poet. His noble lines refer to what Americans today would call "the disconnect" between modern sensibilities and the need for the spiritual balm of deep immersion in the natural world. Two centuries after Wordsworth penned these lines we are more removed than ever from that conciliatory awareness of our place in the web of being.

Today we live with discordance the Romantics could never have imagined: kidnappings and beheadings, roadside bombings and the mass slaughter of innocents, the unconscious perception that wherever we go we may become targets for the malicious agents of an enemy with whom we are engaged in an existential and perhaps epic conflict. There's plenty to get away from, and it's important to pull that plug, even if only for a while.

It took a week or so of unwinding — plunging in the pristine surf, learning to see again in a landscape flooded with light, enjoying the simple rhythms of being a family — to revive that faculty of the soul that feels so effortlessly in tune with the natural world that one is surprised on occasion to find oneself singing along with it.

I admit that I steered clear of newspapers. I skipped the television. I had no idea what was going on in the wide world beyond our island refuge, but I found again what Wordsworth called *"glimpses that would make me less forlorn."* In my case it was no vision of an ancient sea god rising from the Atlantic.

I sat with our 4-year-old above the beach one day while my wife picked up water for another afternoon by the ocean. Below and sweeping away to the left was a mile or more of golden sand lapped by the limpid sea and thronged with hundreds come to take their pleasure at the water's edge.

And then I heard the voice of another English poet. He was singing through the stereo of the cafe just behind us: *"Imagine all the people, Living life at peace ..."*

And I did. It was easy, and a pleasure, to appreciate the world before my eyes, with people of many nations living for the day, sharing with healthy hedonism the goodness of the earth. I sang along with John Lennon so my daughter might remember the moment.

An actual, living Englishman, not a disembodied voice, was sitting a meter or so from us. I could hear him humming the tune as well: *"I hope some day you'll join us, And the world will live as one."* I'd gotten away from it all, only to find that I was not the only one. It was very reassuring.

I highly recommend a similar experience to anyone who feels weighed down by the world and the war that claims so much of our attention today. Get away from it all and let some connection to nature flood your senses for a while. Your soul will be refreshed and you'll feel better oriented to the world as we know it when you return.



## Herald Union

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# News and features

## News flash

### NSPS Town Halls

Representatives from the Civilian Human Resource Agency-Europe will present recorded Town Hall Meetings conducted by the Army concerning changes in the federal civilian employee system as a result of the conversion to the National Security Personnel System at Hanau's Community Activity Center (Building 1351 on Fliegerhorst Kaserne) Oct. 19 from 9-11 a.m., Giessen's Alpine Catering Center Oct. 19 from 1-3 p.m. and in Wiesbaden's Taunus Theater (Hainerberg Shopping Center) Oct. 21 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. The representatives will be available to lead a discussion and answer questions.

### Medication alert

Military treatment facility pharmacies have stopped filling and refilling prescriptions for Vioxx, also known as rofecoxib, a medication used to reduce pain and inflammation. Merck and Co., Inc., the makers of Vioxx, have withdrawn the drug from the market following concerns about the risk of heart attacks and strokes. While Army medical officials will attempt to contact the 1,200 patients in the European military pharmacy database using Vioxx, patients are advised not to wait to discontinue use of the product and to arrange for a different medication. (*Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Release*)

### Hispanic Heritage

Professional speaker and consultant Jimmy Cabrera will speak at several locations in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. The member of the National Speakers Association will appear at 1 p.m. Oct. 12 in Hanau's Fliegerhorst theater (this event starts at 11:30 a.m.), Oct. 13 in Giessen's Alpine Club, Oct. 14 in Wiesbaden's Flyers Theater and Oct. 15 in Baumholder's Wagon Wheel Theater. For more information call your local Equal Opportunity Office.

### Outreach Europe 2004

The U.S. General Services Administration's annual overseas training conference and trade exposition will be held Oct. 18-21 at Heidelberg's Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. The event will feature 56 free courses to choose from ranging from logistics and supply to contracting and engineering; manufacturers and suppliers; food service products and equipment; and Morale Welfare and Recreation products. Topics will include GSAA Advantage!, MOBIS, E-Buy, federal supply schedules and more. No pre-registration is required for the seminars and most of them are certified by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training so that attendees can earn continuing education credits. For more information browse on the Internet to [www.gsa.gov/oe2004](http://www.gsa.gov/oe2004). (*Installation Management Agency-Europe Public Affairs*)



Photo by Marie J. DeLopez



Photo by Edwin Torres

## Going to the dogs

Families enjoy the action during Büdingen Army Community Service's Pet Jam-boree Oct. 2 on Armstrong Barracks. The event featured games, contests, discount pet vaccinations courtesy of the Hanau Veterinary Clinic, military working dog demonstrations, music and more. Germans and Americans came out in force to enjoy the fun. Photo left: Spc. Leslie Perry, a veterinary technician with the Hanau Vet Clinic, performs a routine checkup and administers shots to Dudley, a 10-week-old boxer, as his owner Glen Perry looks on.

## Lessons . . . . .

### Continued from page 1

throughout the city of Baghdad upon their assumption of the mission in the spring of 2003 to eventually withdrawing to the perimeter by the time 1st AD turned over operations to the 1st Cavalry Division in the spring of 2004.

Ensuring that Soldiers remained motivated and enjoyed an ever increasing standard of living were important aspects of OIF, Dempsey said. "We had a goal that about every three weeks Soldiers should feel material changes in their quality of life." As regards morale, a concept that he said he was asked about continuously by leaders far from the front lines, especially after the decision was made to extend 1st AD beyond the initial 12-month deployment, he said morale is not an issue for "Soldiers who understand the importance of their mission, believe they are winning and know when they are going home."

Ongoing operations such as Iron Hammer were aimed not only at cracking down on the insurgency, but also at combating a sense of "losing momentum" in the fall of 2003, he said. "The point was to show our own Soldiers we were on the offensive." While Iron Hammer was named after the fact, Iron Partnership was aimed at training, teaching, equipping, mentoring and coaching Iraqi forces, Dempsey said.

"In Iraq there is a sense of national pride, but not a sense of national identity," he said, describing how challenging it was to instill a real desire to stand and fight the enemy among the newly trained Iraqi defense forces. "Fifty percent of the Iraqi forces quit or stayed home during the Sadr uprising."

Learning how to overcome the challenge of getting Iraqis to take responsibility for their fledgling democracy "is the most difficult question for the coalition right now," he said.

With Operation Iron Sabre, Dempsey said the division "did incredible things," moving rapidly into trouble spots, pinpointing the en-



Photo by Karl Weisel

Visitors take a look at exotic pests the Army must consider when deploying, such as this Madagascar giant cockroach, at one of the Land Combat Expo exhibits.

emy, striking and opening up the chance for Iraqi leaders to establish control. "All you really do in this environment is establish windows of opportunity and encourage them to use them. ... In a counter-insurgency you are fighting for public confidence."

Asked about the prospect of elections in Iraq in January, Dempsey said, "Talk of delaying elections would be a major mistake. I think the mystique of the elections will be such a powerful unifying theme that it will unify the country. I think it's crucial that they hold elections."

Throughout the Expo, visitors had an opportunity to get their hands on the latest gear and talk to warriors who had used the tools of the trade in Iraqi cities such as Karbala, Al Kut and Najaf in Iraq. Several members of Friedberg's 1st Battalion, 37th Armor, were on hand with their battle-scarred M1A1 Abrams tank, nicknamed "Adam's Revenge," to answer questions

from the curious.

"People have been expressing deep feelings about it (Operation Iraqi Freedom)," said Staff Sgt. Eric Quesnel, Company A, 1-37th Armor, and tank commander. "Believe it or not, they get really emotional about it."

As the members of the tank crew answered questions from students and adults, they recalled the 15 months spent battling insurgents in Baghdad, Karbala and other Iraqi cities. The Revenge, named after a former crew member who was severely injured in Iraq, saw its share of combat, taking a crippling blow to its engine during a battle with Mahdi forces near Karbala. It was later repaired and by the end of the OIF deployment had taken its crew through some 300 combat patrols.

"Today we had all the school kids come by," said Quesnel. "They all had their sheets and questions prepared — lots of technical questions about the tank."

"It's great to be home," he added.



# News and features



Photos by Anemone Rueger

## Paying tribute

Lt. Col. Darryl Owens (above right and photo right), 104th Area Support Group S-2/3, and Hermann Brunotte, age 90, pay tribute at a memorial to fallen German and American airmen from World War II near Bad Hersfeld Sept. 27. A World War II battle at the site claimed the lives of 118 U.S. and 18 German airmen 60 years ago. Brunotte's brother, a German airman, died in the air battle. The memorial was dedicated in 1990 and today serves as a symbol of German-American reconciliation and friendship, officials said.



## News flash

### CHRNA website change

The Civilian Human Resource Management Agency website located at [www.chrma.hqusaureur.army.mil](http://www.chrma.hqusaureur.army.mil) is now accessible through two new locations. The U.S. Army Europe gateway to access information for civilian personnel living and working overseas, local courses offered for employment and development, and management tools is available at [www.chra.eur.army.mil](http://www.chra.eur.army.mil). Information on Appropriated Funds, Nonappropriated Funds and local national civilian personnel policies, procedures and programs, pay information, contingency guidance, awards, recruitment and retention incentives is located at [www.per.hqusaureur.army.mil/cpd](http://www.per.hqusaureur.army.mil/cpd). (USAREUR Public Affairs)

### Recruit the Recruiter

A Recruit the Recruiter team will visit the 104th Area Support Group this month to discuss the new Assignment Incentive Program, the recruiter badge, recruiter ring, special duty pay and meritorious promotions. All interested E-4s to E-7s are invited to attend one of the briefings at Wiesbaden's Education Center, Room 4, Oct. 15 at 9:30 a.m.; Hanau's Evening Star Theater on Pioneer Kaserne Oct. 15 at 1:30 p.m. or Baumholder's Wagon Wheel Theater Oct. 22 at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For more information visit [www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter) or call Sgt. 1st Class Curtis at mil 350-7120.

### Give to CFC

This year's Combined Federal Campaign Overseas continues through Dec. 3 giving Soldiers and civilians the opportunity to give to the charity of their choice. This year's campaign overseas features a giveaway for people who turn in a pledge card (no actual financial commitment is required to enter the giveaway). For more information contact your local CFC-O keyperson or visit the CFC-O website at [www.cfcoverseas.org](http://www.cfcoverseas.org).

### Winterize vehicle

Army and Air Force Exchange Service Car Care Centers, U.S. Forces Vehicle Inspection Stations and German auto repair shops will provide free lighting system inspections in October as part of the international motor vehicle lighting campaign. In addition to the lighting inspection AAFES Car Care Centers will also inspect windshield wipers, exhaust systems and tires. Those AAFES centers equipped with a brake analyzer will test brake systems. Any repair work to correct deficiencies will be chargeable to the vehicle owner. (IMA-E Public Affairs)

### Police officers wanted

A recruiting team from the Richmond, Va., Police Department will visit the 284th Base Support Battalion Oct. 12-15 to conduct in-depth briefings about available jobs with the force, to answer questions and to provide help applying for jobs. Interested Soldiers from Giessen, Friedberg, Hanau, Wiesbaden and Baumholder may contact the Giessen Army Career and Alumni Program office to sign up for a briefing. Briefings may be scheduled at the respective installation depending on the number of interested Soldiers. Anyone age 21 and older with an honorable or medical discharge as well retirees may apply. For more information call Claire Sowinski at mil 343-9332.

### Benefits for former POWs

The Department of Veterans Affairs has expanded its benefits for former Prisoners Of War to include those with strokes and common heart diseases. Those veterans will be automatically eligible for disability compensation for those common ailments, and their spouses and dependents will be eligible for service-connected survivors' benefits if these diseases contribute to the death of a former POW. For more information visit the Veterans Affairs home page at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). (VA News Release)

## Hello, goodbye . . . . .

### Continued from page 1

everyone leaves for Texas or to join other units."

Throughout the day-long event Soldiers and their families enjoyed a host of activities ranging from basketball, softball and volleyball to karaoke, horseshoes, face painting and more. The day got started with a battalion run at 6:30 a.m. followed by a pie auction where people could bid on pies to be tossed at unit leaders.

Company first sergeants and commanders were the first choice for targets. "We asked the Soldiers who they wanted to start off," said 1st Lt. Pablo Garcia, Company D executive officer, who helped organize the Organization Day. "The most expensive pie went for \$450. We raised some \$2,000.

"The companies brought side dishes and desserts," said Garcia. "That was especially important for the single Soldiers because they don't get a home cooked meal as often as the married Soldiers do. . . . We're all glad to be home. Some of the Soldiers were there for the whole 15 months. That's tough — especially on the families."

Celebrating the Organization Day was bittersweet, said Tammy Doerer. "We feel really rushed this month. We've already lost some people." Some families have already moved on to Fort Hood so that children would be able to start school at the beginning of the school year in their new schools.

About 30 families and 75-80 Soldiers in the A64 Military Occupational Specialty are making the move to Texas with the unit. While Apaches are refitted as the Longbow, Soldiers will train to handle the enhanced attack helicopters. The battalion colors will be cased on Fliegerhorst in November and uncased in Fort Hood upon the unit's arrival. The battalion is still slated to return to Hanau in October 2005, Doerer said.

Money raised during the pie auction will go to help finance the battalion dining out at Hanau's Philippsruhe Castle Oct. 22, said Tammy Doerer. "One of the reasons we raised money is so that the lower enlisted Soldiers can afford to come."

One of the highlights of the Organization Day was the presentation of a couple hundred welcome back T-shirts donated by Washington state firefighters from Snohomish County. Part of a Heroes to Heroes effort, the T-shirts were donated at the instigation of Marilyn Rexilius of Everett, Wash., and mother of Staff Sgt. Eric Rexilius, a technical inspector with Company D, 1-501st Aviation.

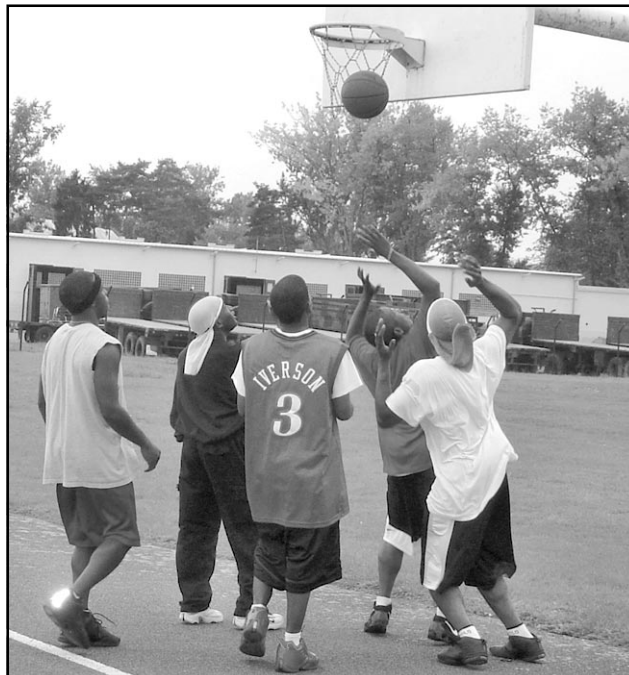
"My mother has worked as a county 911 emergency dispatcher for 20 years and she's networked with all of these

fire department people," said Rexilius. "She's really proud of us."

Firefighters who donated shirts were eager to support those on the front lines. "These are from the guys serving back home as a way of saying, 'we've got a job to do, but we're appreciative of what you're doing over there.'" Many were signed with comments such as, "Thank you for protecting me and my family."

Having collected the T-shirts from more than 20 county fire departments, she sent them to the unit in Germany to be handed out when Soldiers were originally scheduled to return in the spring of 2004. Because 1st Armored Division Soldiers were extended another three months beyond their initial 12 month deployment, the T-shirt presentation had to be put on hold.

Following the T-shirt presentation, Doerer thanked everyone for their dedicated efforts throughout the 15-month deployment. "I'd like to acknowledge what the Family Readiness Group and rear detachment have done while we were downrange. Without them we wouldn't have been as successful. . . . You all have done an outstanding job in supporting the Army and supporting your families."



Soldiers enjoy a basketball game during Organization Day.



Photos courtesy of 1st Armored Division

## Couple serves together, promoted together

Staff Sgt. Natasha Wallace, an ammunition sergeant assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command, and her husband, Staff Sgt. Dontae Wallace, a machinist assigned to Company C, 123rd Main Support Battalion, are promoted to sergeant first class together in a ceremony Sept. 30 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Both have served in the Army for 13 years and have been married the past eight years. The couple has also served three consecutive tours together at Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Bragg, N.C., and Korea before being assigned to 1st Armored Division where they deployed together in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Gene Knudsen

## Warrior wins cross country meet

Junior Ashleigh Spencer (front row, far right, in blue) won the girls' cross country meet in 22 minutes and 5 seconds Oct. 2 at Wiesbaden's Gen. H.H. Arnold High School.

# Soldier recognized by Rhode Island for services

By Spc. Jeanine Kinville  
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

Master Sgt. Daniel Massa has risen far from his humble beginnings as an Army private.

"I learned most of my English in the military," said the Humacao, Puerto Rico, native. "If I wasn't here, I wouldn't have the direction and knowledge I possess now."

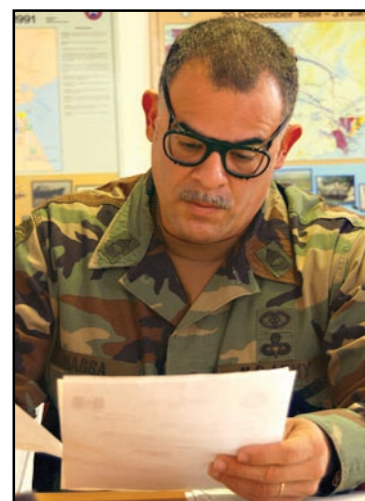
The 1st Armored Division Soldier's office is decorated with an oversized cutout of jumpmaster wings with the gold star signifying a combat jump, which he made in Panama. He has posters from each of his deployments showing where they were and how they were fought.

A single father of two sons — Daniel, age 20, and Angel Axel, age 16 — with a master's degree in management and another one in human resources on the way, he has kept very busy the past 18 years of his career.

"I think that I have done very well," said Massa. "I will continue to do what's best and take care of Soldiers."

His mission since April has been leading the division surgeon office as the chief medical noncommissioned officer. He took the position after an assignment as first sergeant of Company E, 123rd Main Support Battalion.

"Master Sgt. Massa walked in



Master Sgt. Daniel Masa

and started to take care of situations and the Soldiers," said 2nd Lt. Lee McMooain, rear detachment officer in charge. "He came in and provided good leadership."

"It's a new Army, and I think we have to provide better guidance so the Soldiers perform better. We need to ensure the medical strength is where it should be and they get time to practice their skills," Massa said.

"I look up to him as an accomplished NCO," said Spc. Christina Pillow, a patient administration specialist. "He takes care of his Soldiers and the section."

Massa's duties include monitoring medical paperwork, training for units and evaluation, but top on

Massa's list is monitoring the division's medical readiness. "The Soldiers are ready and prepared to see missions completed successfully," said Massa. "It is more ready now than 15 months ago."

His first duty station was with the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C., as part of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He completed the advanced airborne school and became jumpmaster qualified during his seven years at Fort Bragg.

"I did three deployments with the 82nd, and one included a combat jump into Panama during Operation Just Cause," said Massa, whose airborne jumps total 87, "one for real and 86 for practice," he said. The other two missions were Operation Golden Pheasant in Honduras and Operations Desert Shield/Storm where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

From Fort Bragg Massa moved on to Fort Sam Houston and became an advanced emergency medical technician instructor for the basic noncommissioned officers course. After completing his time as an instructor, he arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for a two-year diplomatic assignment as a medical adviser for the Office of the Program Manager-Saudi Arabian National Guard where he learned some Arabic. Following his assignment in Saudi Arabia, Massa was the medical standards NCO for the Military Entrance and Processing Command in Chicago, Ill.

In May 2003 he deployed with 1st AD in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During his many combat deployments, he's encountered many serious situations, treating casualties under fire. He said helping his fellow Soldiers brings great satisfaction.

"I have many times been in the position to save someone's life," said Massa. "They are all significant when you go to save them. You don't care who they are or where they came from; you're there to save them. That is your accomplishment."

Massa was recently named the Honor Soldier for the Chamber of Representatives in Rhode Island for his service to the Hispanic community, outstanding civil actions and meritorious achievements while serving in the U.S. Army. "I was very happy to receive the award. It was a true honor."